

MEETING SUMMARY
FOREST MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING (FMAC)

Michigan United Conservation Clubs
2101 Wood Street
Lansing, Michigan
Wednesday, September 13, 2006
2 p.m.

FMAC Members Present

Mr. Steven Arwood, Arwood Group
Mr. William Bobier, Earthscape Resource Management
Mr. Joel Blohm, Breath Northern Lumber of Michigan
Ms. Lynne Boyd, Department of Natural Resources,
Forest, Mineral, and Fire Management (FMFM)
Mr. William "Bill" Cook, Michigan State University Extension
Mr. Thomas Dunn, American Motorcycle Association
Ms. Susan Holben, Michigan Economic Development Corporation
Mr. Desmond Jones, Michigan Tree Farm System
Mr. Dan Keathley, Michigan State University
Mr. William "Bill" Manson, Michigan Snowmobile Association
Mr. Frank Ruswick, Department of Environmental Quality
Mr. Warren Suchovsky, Suchovsky Logging
Mr. Sam Washington, Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC)
Mr. Gordon Wenk, Michigan Department of Agriculture
Ms. Anne Woiwode, Sierra Club Mackinac Chapter

FMAC Members Absent

Mr. Leland Crawford, International Paper
Ms. Margaret "Peg" Gale, Michigan Technological University
Mr. Mark Janke, Janke Consulting

FMAC COMMITTEE ADVISORS PRESENT

Ms. Leanne Marten, USDA Forest Service

FMAC DELEGATES PRESENT

Mr. Steve Shine, Michigan Department of Agriculture

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR) STAFF PRESENT

Mr. Dennis Fox, Chief of Staff
Mr. Jim Radabaugh, FMFM
Ms. Cara Boucher, FMFM
Ms. Kerry Gray, FMFM
Mr. David Price, FMFM
Ms. Sandy Simpson, FMFM

PUBLIC ATTENDEES/GUESTS

Mr. Bob Garner, NRC Commissioner
Mr. Paul Mulder, Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association
Mr. Todd Scott, Michigan Mountain Biking Association

AGENDA APPROVAL

Lynne Boyd gave an overview of the meeting agenda. **Susan Holben** asked to add the timber bills to agenda.

Susan Holben moved to approve agenda. Supported by **Frank Ruswick**. Committee members unanimously approved agenda.

MEETING SUMMARY

Susan Holben moved to approve Monday, July 17, FMAC Meeting Summary. Supported by **Steve Arwood**. Meeting Summary unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Paul Mulder on behalf of the Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association (Association) attending relative to the off-road vehicle (ORV) plan. Mulder had attended stakeholders meetings and seeking to become more involved to assist in answering questions by the Association

Mr. Todd Scott, Michigan Mountain Biking Association (MMBA), shared representing his Association regarding forest recreation and the proposed fee increase. The MMBA is seeking to ascertain the differential fees among DNR Divisions.

Mr. Dennis Fox, DNR Chief of Staff shared the DNR Hunting and Fishing License Program Development Workgroup is reviewing funding sources various DNR programs.

STATE FOREST PLAN

The FMFM staff briefed the FMAC members explaining the reasoning the DNR developing a state forest management plan, which is based on the forest certification standards and Part 525 of the Natural Resources Environmental Protection Act. **Mr. David Price** presented an outline of each section/category of the plan and explained the process for tracking public and stakeholder comments/input, plus provided a summary of comments taken thus far. Several open houses have been held to explain the plan and allow for public input, but attendance was less than expected. The DNR will continue to collect public comments through September 15, 2006. The state forest plan is on the fast track to for completion by December 31, 2006. An executive summary will be further developed as the plan evolves. The plan will include input from other DNR resource divisions as well.

The revised draft plan will be posted on the DNR website. All comments posted will be in the original form received and include the person/organization that submitted the comments.

The FMFM staff is seeking to submit the plan to the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) for Information purposes at its November 9, 2006 meeting, and as an action item for the NRC at its December 7, 2006 meeting.

Eastern Upper Peninsula Eco-Plan to be completed in July 2007. The Northern-Lower and Western Upper Peninsula Eco-Plan is targeting completion by December 2007.

The FMFM staff discussed that there was good representation from cross-sectional groups at the public meetings, but more local government representation would have been desirable. The Committee discussed methods for a process to bring in greater participation.

Mr. Mulder shared his experience with the off-road vehicle program and will present the state forest plan to his local township officials (Summerfield Township).

Discussion continued relative having a broad-based plan broken down in sections to allow more public, state/local officials, and educational institution(s) and Committee involvement. The FMFM staff shared the internal review process and issues that arise will be shared with the members for review/assessment. The FMAC can assist with policy questions about the use and management of the state forests.

PROPOSED FEE INCREASE FOR STATE FOREST CAMPGROUNDS

Jim Radabaugh discussed the proposal to increase state forest campground fees to meet projected shortfall for fiscal year 2008. State forest campground fees are major revenue source for is this program and the increase is only intended for state forest campgrounds. **Jim** shared how the FMFM's revenue dollars are allocated and that the increase in fees is vital due to revenues being flat and expenditures continue to rise. The fee plan does reflect an inflation factor, but does not include capital improvements. The FMFM staff discussed infrastructure and cost to maintain its campgrounds to meet all of the required health and safety issues. The revenue projection from the fee increase is anticipated to generate \$1.7 million. **Jim** shared weather conditions is one variable to for flat revenues. State forest campground usage can be high or low, depending on the seasons. The usage may show statistically low, but the campground is part of managing the forest lands and controlling where camping activity occurs, and keep us in compliance with local public health departments.

Discussion continued regarding the recreation fund document previously shared at the July 28, 2006 meeting.

Lynne Boyd shared the fee increase is a DNR Director's order and required to provide six-month notification to the legislature before fees are in affect. The NRC Finance and Administration reviews quarterly the DNR finances and is the vehicle to assist in this endeavor.

Sam Washington recommended appointing a committee to expedite action on revenue issues for a total Department fix; working closely the DNR leadership. **Dennis Fox** explain to members the DNR is working to overlap all of its advisory groups to assist with the general fund reductions in the Department. **Dennis** also briefly discussed restricted funds and the impact to the department, and state government, with the elimination of the single business tax.

Discussion continued regarding fee for accommodations/amenities. Fee should reflect the cost to keep that state forest campground. Need to send a message to the public that their state taxes are not getting appropriated into recreational funding for the DNR.

Steve Arwood motioned to recommend a comprehensive funding mechanism put in place in three-years.

MOTION: **Bill Bobier** moved to support stop gap funding analysis, combined with in-depth review of a comprehensive funding mechanism, supported by **Sam Washington**. Motion carried.

Lynne Boyd asked members to research long-term funding sources for December meeting. **Sam Washington** recommended utilizing the Citizens for Michigan State Parks/Parks and Recreation Division's data collected regarding potential funding sources. **Bill Bobier** recommended, and requested, the NRC Policy Committee on Finance and Administration extended an invitation to the all DNR advisory groups for joint discussion on a comprehensive plan for permanent funding sources for natural resource management. **Dennis Fox** will present this recommendation to NRC Chair, **Keith Charters and Director Humphries** at the December 2006 meeting.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, October 11, 2006

MUCC

1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Agenda Item:

Data Collection/Funding Sources from Other States

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.